

Practices That Work!

Reason for starting the innovative practice

- In response to demand of tree farmers, furniture makers, lumber dealers
- To minimize timber poaching on new remaining natural forests
- To promote harvests from tree farms
- To remove policy implementation roadblocks

Role of Implementing Organization

Office of Provincial Agriculturist – Financed and facilitated formation of Wood Industry Development Council (composed of tree farmers, wood processors, furniture makers, lumber dealers. Acted as Convenor, Cotabato Wood Industry Development Council. Financed council meetings and travels.

DENR CENR, PENR and Regional Offices – Facilitated preparation and approval by DENR Central Office of Provincial Mini Sawmill Rationalization Plan

Cotabato Wood Industry Development Council – Directly lobbied with the Region XII Cabinet Cluster on Regional Development for approval of the Provincial Mini Sawmill Rationalization Plan

How it works

For tree farms to be profitable, legitimate local wood processing plants must be established. To establish such plants, permits are issued by the DENR only on the basis of a rationalization plan approved by the DENR Central Office. Without an approved rationalization plan, wood processing plant applications cannot be approved. To approve the plan, the DENR needs information from the tree farmers on the number of wood processing plants needed in the province based on the total hectares of tree farms of various species and age classes, among others.

To convince the DENR that such a need exists in the province, the Provincial Government facilitated formation and strengthening of the Wood Industry Development Council which, in turn, helped establish the demand for wood processing plants. They also actively lobbied with the DENR and the Region 12 Cabinet Cluster on Regional Development for the development approval of a rationalization plan. They succeeded. The rationalization plan would program the establishment of mini-sawmills on the basis of available supply from tree farms.

General Information

Innovative Practice Name

Encouraging wood processing investments to stimulate tree farming

Location

Province of North Cotabato

Date Started

June 1997

Date Completed

June 1999

Estimated Cost:

P200,000.00

Implementing Office Address

Office of Provincial Agriculturist
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Province of North Cotabato

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How barriers/obstacles were overcome

Because successive follow-ups with the DENR seemed endless, the Council decided on the 10th month to seek intervention of the Office of the President through the Cabinet Cluster on Regional Development.

Details of benefits and results

- 15 wood processing plant applications were already approved
- merchantable tree farms are already being harvested
- income opportunities for tree farmers, furniture makers, lumber dealers and wood processors increased
- rapport with the local DENR has improved
- increased local livelihood opportunities



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